Message Text

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O 042201Z DEC 74 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT - EXHIBITS: TECHNOLOGY FOR THE AMERICAN HOME

REF: A. MOSCOW 18082-C; B. MOSCOW 17277-U; C. STATE A-8541-U; D. MOSCOW 18192-C

- 1. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE STRONG PROTEST AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL AGAINST ARBITRARILY IMPOSED 33 PERCENT RATE INCREASE IN EXHIBITION SPACE RENTAL.
- 2. BESIDES THE ARGUMENTS ALLUDED TO IN REFTEL, THE FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE: THE US GOVERNMENT HAS GONE TO EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSE TO PRESENT AN EXHIBITION CONSISTENT WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN A FIELD WHICH IS ESPECIALLY RELEVANT TO MODERN SOCIETY. THE PRESENT EXHIBITION WAS ESPECIALLY DEVELOPED BY THE USIA TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS MADE BY SOVIET OFFICIALS AT MANY LEVELS DURING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS BOTH IN MOSCOW AND IN WASHINGTON. IN ADDITION WE FACE SIZEABLE EXPENDITURES IN THE PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF SEMINARS, CONCOMITANT WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXHIBITION, INTENDED TO MEET THE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL

INTERESTS OF SOVIET SPECIALISTS IN THE FIELD. (EMBOFF MAY WISH TO ELABORATE ON THE NATURE OF THE SEMINARS AS DESCRIBED REFS B AND C.) WE ASK THAT THE CHAMBER CONSIDER ONCE AGAIN WHETHER IT CANNOT AGREE TO A SPACE RENTAL RATE AT LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. SUCH A POSITION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE FEEL TO BE OUR POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE WHOLE QUESTION OF EXHIBITIONS AND SEMINARS AND THE INCREASED MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF RECENT YEARS.

3. FYI WE ARE AWARE THAT CHANCES OF CHAMBER RECONSIDERATION ARE REMOTE. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE IT WORTH MAKING ONE MORE EFFORT TO OBTAIN A MORE FAVORABLE RATE. END FYI. IF AFTER AN APPROPRIATE PERIOD TO RECONSIDER (A WEEK TO TEN DAYS) THE CHAMBER REMAINS ADAMANT ON THE 12 RUBLE FIGURE, THE EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT THE INCREASED RATE, EXPRESSING AT THE SAME TIME OUR DEEP CHAGRIN AT BEING ASSESSED SUCH A LARGE ADDITIONAL CHARGE. KISSINGER

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